

REMARKS

Status of the Application

Claims 1-17 are the claims that have been examined in the pending application. Claims 1-4 and 14-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Fujiwara et al. (WO 2002/083795). Claims 1-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Yabuki (EP 1340796). Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujiwara in view of Kawasaki et al. (U.S. 6,338,891). Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yabuki in view of Kawasaki.

By the Amendment, Applicants are amending claim 1, and canceling claim 5.

Preliminary Matters

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicants' claim to foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, as well as receipt of certified copies of the priority documents filed March 18, 2003.

Applicants further thank the Examiner for considering and initialing the Information Disclosure Statements filed March 18, 2004 and July 12, 2005.

§102(b) Rejection

Claims 1-4 and 14-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Fujiwara et al. (WO 2002/083795).

Amended claim 1 recites, in part, "wherein the sulfur-containing compound is at least one selected from the group consisting of thioether compounds, thiourea compounds, sulfoxide compounds, thiocyanic acid compounds, sulfinic acid compounds, disulfide compounds, and

sulfur-containing heterocyclic compounds.” Fujiwara fails to teach or suggest this aspect of amended claim 1. Therefore, claim 1, as amended, is patentable over Fujiwara.

§102(a) Rejection

Claims 1-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Yabuki (EP 1340796).

Claim 1, as amended, recites, in part, “wherein the sulfur-containing compound is at least one selected from the group consisting of thioether compounds, thiourea compounds, sulfoxide compounds, thiocyanic acid compounds, sulfinic acid compounds, disulfide compounds, and sulfur-containing heterocyclic compounds.” The Examiner argues that Yabuki teaches or suggests this aspect of the claimed invention, but fails to cite a specific teaching in Yabuki. Applicants respectfully submit that Yabuki fails to teach or suggest that the sulfur-containing compound of the ink-receiving layer consists of any of the listed compounds. While paragraph [0196] of Yabuki discloses that the ink-receiving layer may be barium sulfate, calcium sulfate or zinc sulfide, all sulfur-containing compounds, these compounds are not one of the group as recited in amended claim 1. Therefore, because Yabuki fails to teach or suggest this element of amended claim 1, claim 1 is allowable over the applied art.

§103(a) Rejections

Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujiwara in view of Kawasaki et al. (U.S. 6,338,891).

Claim 17 depends from claim 1. Because Fujiwara fails to teach or suggest all of the elements of amended claim 1, and because Kawasaki fails to cure the deficiencies noted with respect to claim 1, claim 17 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency.

Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yabuki in view of Kawasaki.

Claim 17 depends from claim 1. Because Yabuki fails to teach or suggest all of the elements of amended claim 1, and because Kawasaki fails to cure the deficiencies noted with respect to claim 1, claim 17 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

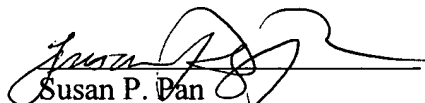
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